

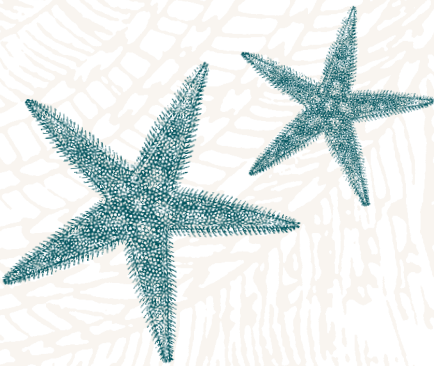
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

A Tribute to

Pro Bono 2006



President's
Pro Bono
Service Awards





Honorable Ronald M. George

Chief Justice of California

Every year, I consider myself fortunate to have the privilege of honoring the recipients of the President's Pro Bono Service Awards and the Loren Miller Legal Services Award. These dedicated, creative and talented individuals have used their expertise to assist segments of our community who otherwise would be without legal representation. This year's award recipients have provided meaningful access to justice to domestic violence victims, at-risk students, the mentally disabled, the homeless, non-English speaking immigrants, and others. Through their contributions, those honored here today have served not only as guardians of the rights of their clients, but also as role models for all of us committed to providing fair and equal access to justice for all Californians.

Access to justice means more than simply keeping the courthouse doors physically open. Without the dedication of members of our legal system such as these honorees, access to justice for many would become merely empty rhetoric. Meaningful access requires that all individuals and organizations can present their claims and take full advantage of the promise of our justice system. Faced with overwhelming challenges and a lack of resources, these award recipients have not only helped those in need but have fought for truly attainable and universal access to justice. On behalf of the entire court system, I thank them, and I ask you to do the same. And, finally, I hope that their passion, action and integrity will be the catalyst for more of us to step forward to preserve and improve the administration of justice for all.



James O. Heiting

President, The State Bar of California, 2005-2006

As President of the State Bar of California, I commend and celebrate the contributions of the recipients of the 2006 President's Pro Bono Service Awards, the Loren Miller Legal Services Award and the Jack Berman Award for Achievement for Distinguished Services to the Profession and Public. These awardees have shown true leadership in the profession through their service to others who have needed it most.

I believe, as attorneys, it is our job not only to be asking, "what good can I do?" but also to commit to answering that question with action. Providing much needed legal services to the economically disadvantaged, this year's awards recipients have become beacons in reminding us "what good can be accomplished" when attorneys apply their expertise and compassion in service to our fellow human beings. You are examples of what a tremendous difference one individual can make in the lives of others!

On behalf of the entire State Bar, thank you for your compelling contributions as leaders in our profession and our communities. By these awards, you have received recognition for your noble actions; but you also have the admiration and respect of all those committed to a fair and accessible justice system. I believe we should all "go out and do some good". Please, lead on.

President's Pro Bono Service Awards

The State Bar Board of Governors created the President's Pro Bono Service Awards in 1983 to provide statewide recognition of attorneys for outstanding provision of pro bono legal services to the poor. In 2001, the awards categories were reconfigured to fully ensure that attorneys from a variety of practice settings be recognized for their extraordinary provision of pro bono legal services to low-income persons or organizations whose primary purpose is to serve the poor.

The following factors are taken into consideration in the selection process:

- Breadth and impact of nominee's pro bono work
- Nominee's practice setting
- Nature of pro bono program through which the work is done
- Evidence of nominee's commitment to pro bono work
- Nature of services contributed

2006 Award Recipients

Corporate	Dennis Connolly
Government.....	Orange County Public Defender's Office
Small Law Firm	Liberson & Wolford LLP
Medium Law Firm.....	Silicon Valley Office of McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Large Law Firm	Deborah McCrimmon
Recently Admitted.....	Nicholas Baran
Emeritus or Limited Active Practice Attorney	S. Lee Roullier
Solo Practitioner	Cynthia Holton
Distinguished Pro Bono Service.....	Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers



Corporate

Dennis Connelly, Santa Ana

Dennis Connelly has been a dedicated and indispensable pro bono attorney with the Public Law Center handling a significant number of Chapter 7 bankruptcy matters and setting an example for other corporate counsel and recently admitted attorneys to follow. While serving as the sole in-house attorney for Beech Street Corporation, a Preferred Provider Organization and Healthcare Management Company, Mr. Connelly handled individual bankruptcy cases. In addition, he continued to represent

bankruptcy clients after the bankruptcy law changed in October 2005, while virtually all of the other bankruptcy volunteers refused to accept any more cases. Mr. Connelly's clients included those living with HIV or AIDS, seniors, and monolingual Spanish and Vietnamese speakers. He also volunteered at several bankruptcy clinics held at the Orange County Bankruptcy Court assisting low-income pro se debtors.



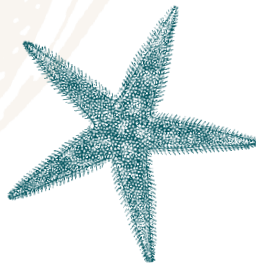
*Back row, left to right: Kevin Song, Sharon Petrosino
Front row, left to right: Andre Nintcheff, Paul DeQuattro,
Hong Nguyen, Robert Boyle, Celia Laureles*

Government

Orange County Public Defender's Office, Santa Ana

The Orange County Public Defender's Office is a critical partner in the Public Law Center's Homeless Legal Clinics held at Orange County's two armory-based temporary homeless shelters. Volunteers with the Public Defender's Office helped homeless clients address the various legal hurdles that stand in the way of their transitioning to a more stable environment.

They provided assistance in a wide variety of criminal legal issues, including searching databases for outstanding warrants, providing brief advice and counsel on criminal issues, informing individuals of their constitutional rights and describing homeless court procedures. Chief Public Defender Deborah Kwast and several of her senior deputy public defenders, encourage all lawyers in the Public Defender's Office to volunteer and to ensure that every clinic has the participation of at least one volunteer.





*Back row, left to right: Harper Batts, Nancy Martinez, Arturo Sandoval, Matt Jacobs, Brian Baker
Front row, left to right: Jennifer Olson, Firasat Ali, Rachel Repka, Jane Bu, Elizabeth Love, Dan Alberti*

Medium Law Firm

Silicon Valley Office of McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Palo Alto

In 2005, attorneys from the 55 attorney Silicon Valley Office of McDermott Will & Emery LLP in Palo Alto provided nearly 1,500 pro bono hours handling contested matters for the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County's Guardianship Legal Services Project. The team also spearheaded a new School Discipline Pro Bono Project with the Legal Aid Society and the Stanford Law School Youth and Education Law Project that provides legal representation for students facing

school suspension and expulsion hearings, and for children facing other types of school disciplinary issues. They also represented tenants in two separate habitability cases, and actively participated in the Citizen Schools Project, a program that helps middle school students develop critical thinking, oral presentation and analytical skills.



Joel Liberson (left) Jason Wolford (right)

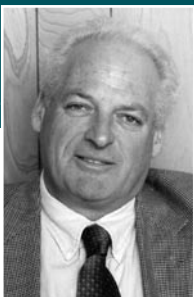
Small Law Firm

Liberson & Wolford LLP, San Francisco

Joel Liberson and Jason Wolford, partners in the 2 attorney firm, have a combined 20 years of litigation and appellate experience.

During the past year, they have demonstrated a commitment to assisting indigent and low-income tenants facing unlawful and

unjustified eviction proceedings. In 2005, they contributed hundreds of hours of pro bono service by representing low-income residents in full scope representation eviction defense cases through the Bar Association of San Francisco Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) Eviction Defense Project. They also provided limited scope representation to individuals through VLSP's Courthouse Landlord/Tenant Project. In addition, the attorneys advised tenants and staff at the Eviction Defense Collaborative (EDC), another nonprofit organization in San Francisco that assists pro per defendants with responses to unlawful detainer complaints.



Recently Admitted

Nicholas Baran, San Francisco

Nicholas Baran is a former engineer, technical editor and author who chose law as a second career in order to help others and to give back to society. He was admitted in 2004 and became a sole practitioner. In 2005, he devoted his entire practice to provide representation for pro bono cases through the Bar Association of San Francisco Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP). The majority of the family law litigants he served were women with children, many who were victims of domestic violence and/or non-English speaking

immigrants. Mr. Baran is not only a zealous advocate for his clients but is sensitive to their non-legal needs and emotional and physical well being. He also helped a domestic violence education organization, the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness, obtain non-profit status.



Large Law Firm

Deborah McCrimmon, San Francisco

Deborah McCrimmon, recently admitted and an associate at DLA Piper US LLP, was an integral member and the only American attorney on a trial team assembled by Equipo Nizkor, a Madrid-based nonprofit human rights organization. Ms. McCrimmon's individual efforts were instrumental in preparing the final trial brief and developing the winning arguments that ultimately resulted in the conviction of Lieutenant Adolfo Scilingo, who was accused of genocide and crimes against humanity, including the disappearance

of and brutality against Spanish nationals living in Argentina during the 1976 – 1983 Military dictatorship. The conviction was landmark because it was the first time that retribution for crimes against humanity was applied in a domestic court and the first time that a domestic court tried an individual based on the principle of international criminal jurisdiction. Ms. McCrimmon began working on the case in 2003 and in 2005 returned to Spain to assist for six-weeks of the trial. In 2005 she also represented two low-income, limited English speaking plaintiffs who were victims of unscrupulous predatory lenders through the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County.



Solo Practitioner

Cynthia Holton, Tustin

Cynthia Holton is a second career attorney and solo practitioner who was admitted in November 2002. As a stalwart family law volunteer with the Public Law Center (PLC) she welcomes challenges, handles each case with the utmost care and dedication, and goes beyond the call of duty by frequently traveling to clients' homes to conduct interviews. She is continually willing to take for full representation some of the most difficult family law cases involving domestic violence victims, seniors and monolingual Spanish

speakers that cannot be placed with other volunteers. In 2005, Ms. Holton contributed hundreds of hours of pro bono legal service on family law cases including helping a terminally ill woman transfer guardianship of her four children to neighbors and helping to obtain legal guardianship for a 17 year-old Salvadoran immigrant who fled his homeland to escape an abusive father.



Emeritus or Limited Active Practice Attorney

S. Lee Roullier, Rocklin

Lee Roullier has been a volunteer with Legal Services of Northern California's Mother Lode Regional Office in Auburn since 1997 and has been enrolled in the State Bar's Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program since 1998. A former Air Force pilot, engineer, law school professor and Dean, Mr. Roullier brings a breadth of professional and life experience to his pro bono work that is hard to match. He worked on challenging cases assisting mentally disabled clients with their public benefits issues, helped process their administrative public

benefit claims and represented them in administrative hearings. In addition, Mr. Roullier continues to serve as a Judge Pro Tem and Small Claims Court Judge at the Sacramento and Placer County Courts.



*Back row, left to right: Shirin Sinnar,
Marwa Elzankaly, Ruxana Meer
Front row, left to right: Mazen Basrawi,
Minal Hassan*

Distinguished Pro Bono Service

Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers, San Jose

The Bay Area Association of Muslim Lawyers (BAAML) was formed in 2001 following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and has approximately 100 members. The mission of BAAML is to educate, advocate and serve as a legal resource for Muslim and other communities' constitutional, civil and human rights. In 2005, BAAML's pro bono efforts were spearheaded by seven core young lawyer members and included: 1) participating in numerous legal rights

presentations co-sponsored with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) at local mosques and community centers throughout Northern California regarding FBI investigations, employment discrimination and immigration issues; 2) regular staffing of a biweekly legal clinic at the Muslim Community Association in Santa Clara, cosponsored by the Pro Bono Project of Silicon Valley; 3) co-organizing a legal training, in coordination with the Florin Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Chapter, CAIR, Yolo County Public Defender's Office and the Sacramento Federal Defender; to expand the pool of pro bono attorneys with expertise in Federal criminal and immigration law to represent Central Valley Muslim Americans in FBI interviews following intense surveillance and arrests in Lodi; 4) collaborating on the production of "Know Your Rights" materials in English, Arabic, and Urdu in collaboration with ACLU of Northern California, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, CAIR and the National Lawyers' Guild and distributing them throughout the Bay Area and the Central Valley; and 5) representing numerous individuals in FBI investigations. BAAML's educational, outreach and advocacy efforts of hundreds of hours have benefited communities of largely underserved, low-income, limited-English speaking immigrant Muslim Americans and have provided a much-needed link between the Muslim community and the general legal community.



Pro Bono California 2006

California Attorneys Make a Difference!

Whether newly admitted, retired (see Emeritus Attorney Program below), practicing in a government, corporate, academic setting or as a solo, you can definitely make a significant difference in the lives of those who would not otherwise have access to the legal system. For more information about pro bono opportunities in your community, contact your local bar association or the State Bar of California Office of Legal Services, Access and Fairness Programs, Program Development Unit at 415.538.2219, 415.538.2267 or programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov.

State Bar's Commitment to Pro Bono

Originally adopted by the Board of Governors in December 1989, the State Bar's Pro Bono Resolution encourages all attorneys to contribute at least 50 hours per year of pro bono service. In June 2002, the Resolution was amended to reflect an updated and renewed commitment to serving the legal needs of low- and moderate-income Californians today, including adding an option to support pro bono through financial contributions.

Local bar associations are encouraged to revisit their commitment to pro bono and to adopt a similar resolution. For a copy of the full Pro Bono Resolution or for more information about enhancing pro bono activities at the local level, please refer to *Renewing our Commitment to Pro Bono: Tools for Local & Specialty Bar Associations*, a valuable resource that is posted on the State Bar's website at http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=12509&id=17149. This resource was produced by the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (SCDLS). SCDLS is a 20-member advisory committee that reports to the State Bar Board of Governors and helps identify, develop and support improvements in the delivery of legal services to low- and moderate-income individuals in a variety of ways. For more information about local pro bono efforts or SCDLS, contact SCDLS Staff Liaison Sharon Ngim at sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov or 415-538-2267.

Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program

If you are an attorney who is otherwise "retired" from the active practice of law or in a transition period, please consider making a difference by doing pro bono work by enrolling in the State Bar's Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program. The Emeritus Attorney Program waives the active status membership fee for eligible attorneys who do pro bono work exclusively with a Qualified Legal Services Program or a State Bar certified lawyer referral service (no fee panel). The nature and scope of the pro bono work varies with each program or LRS. For more information about

the Emeritus Attorney Program, contact Rodney Low at 415-538-2219 or rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov. Information about the EA Program and a downloadable application and sworn statement form can be found on the State Bar's website at http://calbar.ca.gov/state/calbar/calbar_generic.jsp?cid=12642&id=3561.

Office Of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs Program Development Unit

Patricia D. Lee, Director; OLSAFP
patricia.lee@calbar.ca.gov

Rodney Low, Program Developer
rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov

Sharon Ngim, Program Developer
sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov

Deanna Swanson,
Technology Service Analyst Technician
deanna.swanson@calbar.ca.gov

Don Breer, Senior Compliance Coordinator
don.breer@calbar.ca.gov

Frank Monti, Senior Administrative Assistant
frank.monti@calbar.ca.gov

Kate O'Connor,
Temporary Senior Administrative Assistant
kate.oconnor@calbar.ca.gov

Michael Dayao, Administrative Assistant II
michael.dayao@calbar.ca.gov

Kimberly Warmesley, Administrative Assistant II
kimberly.warmesley@calbar.ca.gov

The mission of the Program Development Unit is to develop and support efforts on a statewide basis that enhance and improve the delivery of legal services to low- and moderate-income Californians.



**The State Bar
of California** | **Office of Legal Services,
Access & Fairness Programs**

The State Bar of California
Office of Legal Services, Access and Fairness Programs
Program Development Unit
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639
415.538.2176
415.538.2552 fax
programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov
www.calbar.ca.gov